

THE ACADIAN.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., SEPT. 23, 1887

The Recent Meteor.

The brilliant meteor that passed over our Province on Thursday evening, 15th inst., has naturally received a good deal of attention from scientists and our provincial press.

Through the progress of astronomical science, much light has been thrown upon the nature of the so-called "shooting stars" or meteors. It has been found that space is filled with innumerable bodies of varying densities and magnitudes, which, coming within the sphere of the earth's attraction, are drawn towards it with velocities ranging from thirty-five to one hundred miles an hour.

It is very seldom that a meteor is seen over such an extent of territory as the one of Thursday evening, and it must have been of unusual size. One of these bodies fell in Iowa in February, 1875, weighing 500 lbs., and we have a record of one that passed over a thousand miles of territory reaching from Kansas to Ohio in December 21st, 1876.

It is quite probable that our meteor has met the same fate, though no one has reported an appearance similar to that described above. We hope that our provincial exchanges will endeavor to secure accurate reports of the phenomenon from their several districts.

Temperance.

On Tuesday evening last the people of Wolfville and neighborhood had the opportunity of listening to Mrs. Barney, superintendent of the prison work department of the U. S. National W. C. T. U. The address was announced in the last issue of the ACADIAN for Monday evening, but from some cause it was found necessary to postpone the lecture. Owing to this misunderstanding the attendance was not so large as it would otherwise have been, but at the appointed time the Baptist church was well filled to listen to the first lady speaker who has ever occupied a Wolfville platform for an entire evening.

Professor Keirstead presided and introduced the speaker, who proceeded with a most interesting and instructive address. The story of the man who, in his journey from Jerusalem to Jericho, fell among thieves, was taken as a text, and from this lady speaker gave a most excellent temperance address. She likened the poor drunkard, stranded upon the highway of life, to the unfortunate individual who fell among thieves in his journey, and went on to show how many there were who were "passing by on the other side."

Her description of her experience in her prison-work was most affecting. She is most enthusiastic in the cause of the W. C. T. U., and at the close of her address expressed a hope that a branch of this esteemed order might soon be organized here. Mrs. Barney is a graceful, easy speaker, and appears to be eminently qualified for the work she has undertaken. We wish her a bountiful success.

H. G. MacMurtry says:—"I was suffering from an attack of cholera, and was completely cured by using Seavey's East India Liniment."

The Bermudas alias Somers's Islands.

These islands are situated about 650 miles east of Cape Hatteras and are from 23 to 24 miles long having an area of about 40 square miles. They were discovered by Juan Bermudez in the year 1515, and although many abortive commissions were formed with a view to its settlement, this did not become an accomplished fact until the year 1615 when under James I. of England, the Bermuda Company was incorporated by royal letters patent.

Of the reported 365 islands, only some eight or ten are inhabited, the rest being mere barren rocks and ledges above the level of the water. Access to Bermuda is gained by two routes—Quebec boats from N. Y. and the Cunard boats from Halifax. The voyage from N. Y. is shorter, but not always pleasant. Specially is this so to inferior sailors who pronounce the Gulf stream everything but a blessing.

We purpose entering these sunny coral groups from this eastern extremity, and as we look, in thought, over this land of perpetual spring—the land of palms and bananas and oleander and cedar—we note some of the things that make it so important a station to the Imperial Government.

Its geographical position makes it of immense importance as a storehouse for both military and naval purposes. This was seen in the Southern war, since which time the defences have been strengthened and increased so as to be efficient to keep pace with the continually changing methods of warfare.

Bermuda contains the largest floating dock in the world, the dimensions of which are as follows: Length over all, 381 ft.; length between caissons, 330 ft.; breadth over all, 124 ft.; breadth inside walls, 84 ft.; depth, 75 ft.; total weight, 8,340 tons.

But these things will be more particularly noticed in a future issue.

Baddeck Jottings.

EDITORS ACADIAN.—This is a great country for plums and girls. To-night were shipped by the steamer Maria 60 barrels of plums to Halifax, and 35 trunks to Boston; and to each trunk he jugged 14 girls—44. A week ago 64 went to Boston from here, and one year when I was here on two succeeding Wednesday nights (it seems that Wednesday night is girls' night) there were 100 girls took their departure for that haven for all Nova Scotia girls. There were to-night 65 trunks on board belonging to parties from Sydney and North Sydney, and by the time the boat meets the R. R. at the straits there will not be less than 100 girls en route for Boston.

Where all these girls come from is a mystery. I give it up; and find it easier to tell where the plums come from. They come from Lake Ainsley, a district of Margaree, where they grow wild—a small purple plum like the small "sweet-water," only different in color. They grow in the fields like the thorn-apple and are propagated by "suckers." One man gathered 50 bbls, and sold them for \$500. There are hundreds of barrels shipped from here each season.

We had a great wedding in the Presbyterian church last Monday evening. The Rev. Geo. Williams of Montreal and Jenny McKennis, daughter of Rev. Kenneth McKennis, the Presbyterian minister of the new church here. They were married by Rev. Dr. Forrest, of Halifax, assisted by the Rev. A. Simpson, of same place.

This town is leading all the Cape Breton towns as a summer resort. It is now, and has been all the season, full with American visitors. Prof. Bell lives here, and he paid \$1600 for a house and lot just to get rooms for his twenty-five New York friends who recently made him a visit—pity we weren't the friends of some millionaire to get free rooms and board. He has purchased 100 acres of land on Red Head, the most slightly point here, and I suppose intends to build a palace there next summer.

This is a nice place for invalids; as quiet as Sunday all the time; no sharpers to pick your pockets; no beggars to importune you for a dime. Everything moves slow; the people walk, think and labor slow. They have no ambition to accumulate property, but only want to earn enough in the summer to keep them alive in the winter. No places of amusement; no circus, show or theatre—the only fun the young fellow can have is to go to prayer-meeting and go home with the girls.

The scenery of land and water, the drives, the hotels, the pure air, the quietness, all conspire to aid one that is tired of bustle and business to get rest and health. The tourist will be satisfied on all points. Gaelic is the principal language of the natives. The people are great talkers and visitors.

The Supreme Court is in session now—held by Judge James. One land case, in regard to the turn of a river, involving \$10 worth of land will cost several hundred dollars and one farmer will lose the value of his farm. These Gaelic Scotch are very wilful and stubborn and delight to be in law—they will spend hundreds of dollars to gain \$10 or for an idea of seeming grievance. How foolish! When two neighbors can't agree they ought to compromise and leave the trouble and grievance to honest parties. The great case that overshadows all others is the election bribery of John A. McDonald. The first witness swears that he received \$3 for his vote—\$2 in gold, \$1 in silver. He was on the stand one and a half days, and as there are sixty-five more witnesses to examine, you can imagine it a long, tedious trial. There are six lawyers—Graham, Congdon, Russel, and McDonald, of Halifax; Fraser, of New Glasgow; and Murray and Dodd, of Sydney.

The Last Picnic.

BY BEN SEENE.

It was a bitter cold day—last Friday was—cold and raw and bleak. The biting north wind moaned and whistled through our fall summer clothing and made our poor old limbs shiver and shake and our teeth chatter as the horses pricked up their ears and stood on at the driver's command. It was the Presbyterian Sunday-school picnic to Oak Island and return, good for one day only. It had been suggested by some in the back seat that it was too late in the season to have picnics, that the summer time would have been much better; but we were a bold, dauntless party, and it wasn't in us to be baffled by wind or storm. Besides, the man we'd hired the team from had said as much as that it would be a fine day, and he looked honest. As we neared the island the weather began to look discouraging. Our weather prophet said that it looked to him as if it was going to set in for a fortnight's rain, so we left him to shut the gate after us in the island and drove on. We weren't to be trifled with.

A road had been cut out through the woods, and near the end of this large clear spot had been made with tables all prepared on which to spread the picnic dinner. We drove through this and landed our passengers, and then proceeded to the large smooth field ahead and unharnessed our teams. The weather now was getting more and more discouraging all the time. Directly it commenced to rain. This did look kind of discouraging. Some suggested that we pack up and go home. But no! we weren't the crowd to be baffled by the weather. It was only a sprinkle, however, and in the woods where the tables were spread it was scarcely perceptible. In a short time a bright spot broke out in the west, the rain stopped, and it came out fine again, and everybody was happy. Swings were put up, a cricket game put in operation out in the large smooth field a short distance from where the tables were spread, and all kinds of games were indulged in for a short time.

Then the waiters, with a gesture of command, waved the hand; and at the word, loud and sudden there was heard, all around them and beneath, the sound of victuals, teeth on teeth, eating away all they can get. And see! they eat! They chew—they choke—they seem to feel.

The more they get the better they'll feel, and, spurning with their feet the ginger-bread, which somebody handed to them out of her hand, with exulting joyous spring, they jump into the swing! And thus endeth the first act, and the curtain drops.

In the afternoon the usual picnic programme was carried out, with a few variations. Jumping and running were participated in to quite an extent, and those that shared in them showed that they were not behind their fathers in these healthful and invigorating sports. Many very pretty walks on the island were enjoyed during the afternoon, and among them none were more popular than the one down to the beach. The view across the water is charming; at our feet the bright, dancing waters of the historic Gaspeaux, now nearing its mouth, and just across the pretty little village of Horton Landing.

But all things come to an end sooner or later; so do Sunday-school picnics. Long too soon the teams were harnessed up and the wagons brought around to be loaded. So, with many a regret that the day had been so short, and that picnics come so seldom, the wagons began to pile full. Soon we had bidden good-bye to Oak Island and Mr. Huntly and were on our way-home. It was a pretty drive, up through Horton Landing and Grand

Pre, and we enjoyed it thoroughly. About sundown we reached home, with tired feet, and empty baskets, and the remembrance of one of the pleasantest days we'd spent in a long time.

Acrostic on the Motto of the Sons of Temperance: "Love, Purity, Fidelity." Long may the threefold colored flag unfurled, O'er the earth its glorious message send, Vanquish the monster "Drink"; then from the world Ever the songs of gladness shall ascend. Peace, happiness and plenty there shall be. Unto all men on earth shall be "Good-will."

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice from sea to sea, Initiative love shall every heart soon fill. To reach this glorious goal we all must be Yearning to save the youthful and the strong, Faithful pledges taken—so shall we Influence "swell" the whole deluded throng.

Double your efforts then—do work with might, Enter the field and battle 'gainst the foe. Lift up the fallen—shake the powers of might— In conquering you shall still to conquer go. Then shall we stand at last in garments white, Yielding our trophies—proving "Right is might." CHORUS.

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